

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10

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R 191605Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7952

INFO DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMAASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2187

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: (OMITTED)

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTRY COMPLETES ARMED FORCES PURGING  
WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY ADDITIONAL  
OFFICER RETIREMENTS

REF: A. ATHENS 1798; B. ATHENS 1889

1. DEFENSE MINISTRY MAR 15 ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT OF  
ONE HUNDRED FORTY ADDITIONAL OFFICERS FROM ALL THREE  
BRANCHES ARMED FORCES. IT CLAIMED THAT SPECIAL REVIEW  
OF NATIONS MILITARY OFFICERS AUTHORIZED BY SPECIAL  
PARLIAMENTARY ACT HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED AND PREVIOUSLY  
STATED GOAL TO PURGE ARMED FORCES OF JUNTA ELEMENTS AND  
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SYMPATHIZERS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. STATEMENT ASSERTED

THAT EXCEPT FOR OFFICERS WHO EITHER MANIFEST ACTS OF DISOBEDIENCE IN FUTURE OR WHOSE IMPLICATION IN RECENT MILITARY CONSPIRACY (FEB 24) IS SUBSEQUENTLY REVEALED, "NO OFFICER FULFILLING HIS DUTY CONSCIENTIOUSLY SHOULD FEAR ANY SANCTION".

2. OF 140 OFFICERS CAUGHT IN NEW SWEEP, 91 ARE ARMY, 28 NAVY AND 21 AIR FORCE. ARMY GROUP INCLUDES ALL GRADES FROM COLONEL TO FIRST LIEUTENANT, NAVY CONTINGENT RUNS FROM CAPT THRU LIEUTENANT, AND AIR FORCE GROUPING REACHES FROM COL TO CAPTAIN. DEFATT OFFICERS CONFIRM THAT SUBSTANTIALLY ALL THESE OFFICERS WERE KNOWN AS JUNTA SUPPORTERS OR ACTIVISTS AND THAT THERE NO DOUBT THAT THIS LATEST WAVE OF DISMISSALS CONSTITUTES A TELLING PURGING AND CLEANSING. BY ITS ACTION IN COURSE PAST TWO WEEKS THE GOVT DID NOT CONTENT ITSELF WITH ONLY STRIPPING AWAY FROM THE ARMED FORCES THE JUNTA'S VISIBLE VENEER (GENERAL OFFICERS) BUT RATHER DUG DOWN TO THE INNER VITALS OF THE JUNTA STRENGTH (I.E. FIELD GRADE OFFICERS CONSTITUTED THE GREATER POTENTIAL THREAT) AND EXCISED THEM FORM THE ACTIVE RANKS. PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS FINAL SET OF RETIREMENTS WAS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY LAUDATORY, E.G. "THE CLEANSING IS COMPLETED" (KATHIMERINI), WITH THE ONLY REALLY SOUR NOTE BEING STRUCK BY "RIZOSPASTIS" (COMMUNIST-EXTERIOR) WHICH ASSERTED "POPULAR DEMAND FOR FULL CLEANSING STILL NOT SATISFIED".

4. NOW THAT SPECIAL REVIEW OF ALL OFFICERS FILES HAS BEEN COMPLETED, BOARDS WILL PROCEED TO DETERMINATION OF PROMOTIONS OF OFFICERS TO FILL VACANCIES CREATED BY RETIREMENTS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS TASK WILL BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 15.

5. INITIAL DEFATT REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED SEPARATELY (IR 6 837 0082 75 DTD 181131Z MAR 75).  
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